



## Complete Summary

### TITLE

Diabetes mellitus: percent of eligible patients with diabetes mellitus having a retinal exam by an Eye Care Specialist, timely, as indicated by disease.

### SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality Performance. FY 2009, Q2 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration; 2009 Jan 5. various p.

## Measure Domain

### PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

### SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percent of eligible patients with diabetes mellitus having a retinal exam by an Eye Care Specialist within specified time periods as indicated by disease.

### RATIONALE

Detection and treatment of diabetic eye disease with laser therapy can reduce the development of severe vision loss by an estimated 50% to 60%.

### PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Diabetes mellitus; retinopathy; retinal exam

### DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

Eligible patients from the NEXUS Clinics cohort with diabetes mellitus age 18 to 75 (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

## **NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION**

Eligible diabetes mellitus patients with retinal exam by an Eye Care Specialist within specified time periods (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

### **Evidence Supporting the Measure**

## **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY**

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

### **Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure**

## **NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Unspecified

### **State of Use of the Measure**

## **STATE OF USE**

Current routine use

## **CURRENT USE**

External oversight/Veterans Health Administration  
Internal quality improvement

### **Application of Measure in its Current Use**

## **CARE SETTING**

Ambulatory Care  
Physician Group Practices/Clinics

## **PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE**

Physicians

## **LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED**

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

**TARGET POPULATION AGE**

Age 18 to 75 years

**TARGET POPULATION GENDER**

Either male or female

**STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

**Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component****INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

Unspecified

**ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

**BURDEN OF ILLNESS**

Complications of diabetes include:

- Heart disease is the leading cause of diabetes-related deaths. Adults with diabetes have heart disease death rates about 2 to 4 times higher than adults without diabetes.
- Diabetes is the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults age 20 to 74.
- Diabetic retinopathy causes 12,000 to 24,000 new cases of blindness each year.
- More than 60% of nontraumatic lower-limb amputations in the United States occur among people with diabetes.

**EVIDENCE FOR BURDEN OF ILLNESS**

Office of Quality Performance. FY 2009, Q2 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration; 2009 Jan 5. various p.

**UTILIZATION**

Unspecified

**COSTS**

Unspecified

## Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

### IOM CARE NEED

Living with Illness

### IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

## Data Collection for the Measure

### CASE FINDING

Users of care only

### DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

Eligible patients from the NEXUS Clinics cohort\* with diabetes mellitus age 18 to 75

\*Refer to the original measure documentation for patient cohort description.

### DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

### DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

#### Inclusions

Eligible patients from the NEXUS Clinics cohort\* with diabetes mellitus age 18 to 75

*\*Eligible diabetes mellitus patients:* Meets NEXUS Clinics cohort selection criteria **and** has a diagnosis of diabetes upon Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) chart review. Refer to the original measure documentation for patient cohort description.

#### Exclusions

- Patients greater than 75 years of age or under 18 years
- Diagnosis of gestational diabetes
- Hyperglycemia not otherwise specified (NOS)
- Steroid induced hyperglycemia

### RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

### DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition  
Encounter

#### **DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW**

Time window precedes index event

#### **NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**

##### **Inclusions**

Eligible diabetes mellitus patients with retinal exam by an Eye Care Specialist within specified time periods\*

##### **\*Note:**

- A retinal or dilated eye exam by an eye care professional in the past year.
- *Eye exam*: Dilated pupil fundoscopic exam by an Eye Care Specialist, or dilated photo, or retinal digital image (dilated or undilated) read by an Eye Care Specialist and result available in the chart.
- *Eye Care Specialist*: Ophthalmologist or Optometrist
- No retinopathy in prior exam, exam is expected to be completed every 2 years. If retinopathy is found, eye exam is annual.

##### **Exclusions**

Unspecified

#### **MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS**

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

#### **NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW**

Fixed time period

#### **DATA SOURCE**

Administrative data  
Medical record

#### **LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY**

Individual Case

#### **PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED**

Unspecified

## Computation of the Measure

### SCORING

Rate

### INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

### ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

### STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

## Evaluation of Measure Properties

### EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

## Identifying Information

### ORIGINAL TITLE

Diabetes mellitus - outpatient: retinal exam, timely by disease.

### MEASURE COLLECTION

[Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2009: Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) Performance Measurement System](#)

### MEASURE SET NAME

[Performance Measures](#)

### MEASURE SUBSET NAME

[Effectiveness of Care -- Diabetes](#)

### DEVELOPER

Veterans Health Administration

### FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Unspecified

## **COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE**

Unspecified

## **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Unspecified

## **ADAPTATION**

Measure was not adapted from another source.

## **RELEASE DATE**

2001 Nov

## **REVISION DATE**

2009 Jan

## **MEASURE STATUS**

This is the current release of the measure.

This measure updates a previous version: Office of Quality and Performance (10Q). FY 2008, Q1 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Washington (DC); 2007 Oct 31. 315 p.

## **SOURCE(S)**

Office of Quality Performance. FY 2009, Q2 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration; 2009 Jan 5. various p.

## **MEASURE AVAILABILITY**

The individual measure, "Diabetes Mellitus - Outpatient: Retinal Exam, Timely by Disease," is published in "FY 2009, Q2 Technical Manual for the VHA Performance Measurement System."

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## **NQMC STATUS**

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on September 27, 2002. The information was verified by the measure developer on October 29, 2002. This NQMC summary was updated by ECRI Institute on November 9, 2004 and again on January 10, 2008. The information was not verified by the measure developer. This NQMC summary was updated again by ECRI Institute on December 23, 2009. The information was verified by the measure developer on March 22, 2010.

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